GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6553
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2005
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
Kamat Shri Gurudas;Shaheen Shri Abdul Rashid

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government is aware that the National Museum of Natural History at Barakhamba Road, New Delhi is in a state of decay;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and industry (FICCI) has asked the authorities of the museum to vacate this place;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to preserve the museum?

Answer

MINITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b): The National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), New Delhi is rendering significant services in the fiel of ex-situ conservation and awareness creation about the floral, faunal, and terrestrial resources. It has four galleries on four main themes, namely, An Introduction to the Natural History, Ecology, Conservation and the Cell − the Basic Unit of Life and five Dioramas of three dimensional projections of exhibits. On an average 50,000 visitors visit the Museum per month. The Museum is opened on all days except Mondays and 7 holidays in a year. The NMNH has regional network by way of three Regional Museums of of natural History (RMNH) i.e. in Mysore, Bhopal and Bhubaneshwar, the last one having been opened in August, 2004. The NMNH is setting up a Sensory Aromatic Garden for the visually impaired, a unique and innovative project, in RMNH Mysore.

The NMNH undertakes a wide range of popular activities for school children throughout the year to promote environment awareness among them. Thus, there is no basis for the averment that NMNH is in a state of decay.

(c) &(d): The Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has requested the Ministry to vacate the Museum premises on the ground of the projected requirements for their own use.

(e) The NMNH is sought to be preserved through suitable budgetary allocation. It has an allocation of Rs. 40 crores during 10th plan period for meeting its requirements for conservation and educational activities. The Educational and Publicity activities have been substantially stepped up by the NMNH in the recent past.